Washed up for 59 years

MARTLET

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY FRATTAROLI, NORMAN ED BASKERVILLE AND STEVEN MASUCH

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Canada's only World Cup ref

'Right-to-sleep' protester released on bail

by Melanie Tromp

Although the summer street population of Victoria grew by one third this year, according to police, the city's most prominent homeless man has spent the majority of the season in a prison cell—belly rumbling and body protesting.

Victoria's most outspoken homeless activist, David Arthur Johnston, was released on bail from his Wilkinson Road prison cell on August 9, marking an end to the protester's progressively dangerous 36-day fast.

Supreme Court Justice Robert Bauman recognized no legal obligation to keep Johnston in jail if he promised not to return to St. Ann's Academy on Humboldt Street, the site of the protester's arrest for sleeping on public property in January 2004.

Johnston agreed to the terms of his release, pledging to continue his campaign lawfully by means of a constitutional challenge of Victoria's no-camping bylaw.

He is also appealing the seven-month sentence he received for violating terms of his probation during a protest at St. Ann's on July 6 of this year. His appeal hearing has been slated for October 16, 2006.

St. Ann's most illustrious camper has spent more than 80 days in prison over the past two years on charges stemming from his advocacy against Victoria's no-camping bylaw.

Johnston's fundamental argument is that the privilege of sleep is a core human right, therefore city police who repeatedly wake and move street people throughout the night are impeding on a constitutional entitlement.

Justice Bauman described the emaciated prisoner as a spiritual man of principle who could be trusted to keep his word. Bauman also granted Johnston's request for a 72-hour grace period to recuperate his health before reporting to a bail supervisor. Upon release, Johnston is required to move in with his uncle, William Schneider, in Sooke.

Victoria's celebrity right-to-sleep protester has made fasting a rule of thumb while incarcerated, a strategy evocative of his Ghandian pacifism that has won this round of the ongoing battle for a little shut-eye.

"David has proven he's willing to risk his very life to protect our democratic right to sleep on public property," said Janine Bandcroft, editor of *Street Newz* and a Johnston supporter.

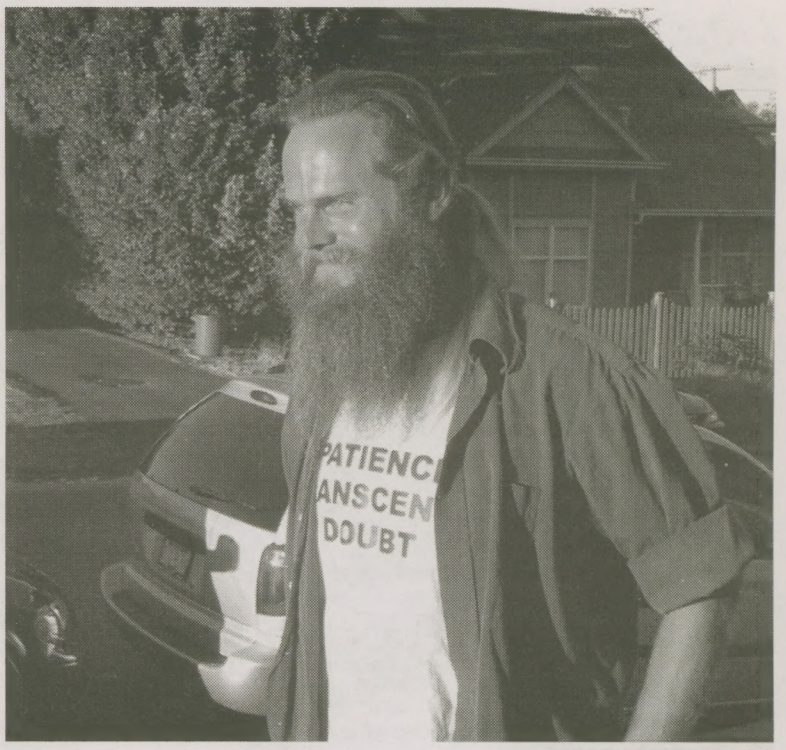
The prisoner's self-imposed hunger strike could not be interrupted by health officials unless Johnston lost consciousness in his cell. Crown counsel Ruth Picha associated Johnston's fasting strategy with mental illness at the bail hearing, requesting that Johnston seek professional counselling upon his release.

Johnston's lawyer, Irene Faulkner, commented that his fast was, "unlike a hunger strike, which people generally go on to demand that someone do something. David fasts when he is imprisoned. To him this is a matter of conscience—he does not eat in captivity."

The Crown's request for counselling was denied by Justice Bauman.

Victoria city council has come under fire after the recent influx in the city's homeless summer population. Visibility of street people in doorways is bad for business and tourism, but both the local and visiting homeless find themselves in conundrum in the summertime—winter beds close down when the city heats up, yet it's illegal to sleep outdoors anywhere in the city.

In late 2005, the City of Victoria obtained an injunction from the B.C. Supreme Court to instruct people who were camping in local Cridge Park to tear down their tent city and refrain from camping on public property.



SHANNON GRIFFIN PHOTO

Activist David Arthur Johnston before his hunger strike.

Johnston's legal team is defending this lawsuit brought by the City of Victoria against "Jane Doe, John Doe and persons unknown," on the grounds that the city's Traffic and Parks Regulation bylaws are unconstitutional.

These pieces of legislation allegedly negate the homeless' "rights to liberty and security of the person," in accordance with the Canadian Charter, by facilitating conditions of harassment and violence for street people.

"I'm glad David has been released from prison," said Bandcroft, "but our work to end poverty doesn't stop there."

"This is a 21st century global-climate-change world," she said, "and I believe the Earth will support those who find creative ways to live gently upon her."

In the early hours of August 9, city police arrested four Johnston supporters who were holding a night of prayers for the prisoner at St. Ann's Academy. All four were later released without charges.

UVic engineers show off

by Tori Wong

The digital avalanche rescue receiver won first place at the exhibit of electrical and computer engineering students' year-end projects on July 21.

The show represented the works of students enrolled in the fourth-year engineering design project class, which started at the beginning of the summer term in May. This class allowed students to gain hands-on experience by developing projects assigned by a faculty member.

Students were divided into 12 teams consisting of two to five people. Each group worked on a different project under the supervision of a faculty member. Projects included a harmonic eliminator, an Internet-based water saving system and an audio analyzer.

Mike Blarowski and Kyle Weston designed the winning project, which was created to help people who have been buried in an avalanche through the use of a transmitter.

"Mike and Kyle's show was very impressive due to photos, project demonstration and excellent verbal presentation [of] the problem and its solution," said Jens Bornemann, the group's faculty supervisor.

"The students demonstrated that their design works in principle and that they have a significant cost advantage over the competition. They also had great work ethic and were very professional and very focused."

Second place was awarded to the team of Eric Desjardins, Anthony Bowers, Robert Wallat and Andrew Lester, who were able to sell the judges on their harmonic elimination project that uses a device to remove harmonic voltages and currents.

Harmonic eliminators are usually used on a large, industrial scale, but the group's project proved that the device could be useful on a smaller level, in municipalities and campuses, helping to save on the cost of energy.

One of the projects was aimed at helping a team of engineers at UVic. The autonomous underwater vehicle team (AUVic) needed a control system for their submersible. Last year, the team finished poorly in the Annual International Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Competition in San Diego, California.

Joanne Luyckx, Mark Robinson and Alison Young decided to tackle AUVic's problem and create a navigation control system for the underwater vehicle.

"It definitely should benefit the AUVic team this year at the competition," said Luyckx before the team had competed. "They didn't have a control system before so now they will be able to make it through the gates in the obstacle course at least. Last time they were unable to do that."

The navigation control system enabled the AUVic team to see what was happening under the water, allowing for easier navigation.

Despite the new piece of equipment, the AUVic team placed 14th out of 22 at this year's competition.

But Bornemann was pleased with the array of projects at this year's engineering exhibition.

"The show in general was great," said Bornemann. "It was good to see that more and more students realize that excellent presentation is required to sell a product."

UVic tries to cut down on paper waste

Four of the busiest computer labs have switched to double-sided printing

by Norman Ed Baskerville

UVic consumes more paper than almost any other single organization on Vancouver Island, but it's showing signs of trying to curb its environmentally unfriendly appetite.

Four of UVic's busiest computer labs have switched their printers' default setting from single-sided to double-sided in order to save paper and reduce waste.

"I'm hopeful that other UVic departments will follow this lead and will work to reduce the consumption of paper on campus," said Tim Lindsay, former co-coordinator of the student-run UVic Sustainability Project's (UVSP) Sustainable Paper Action Group.

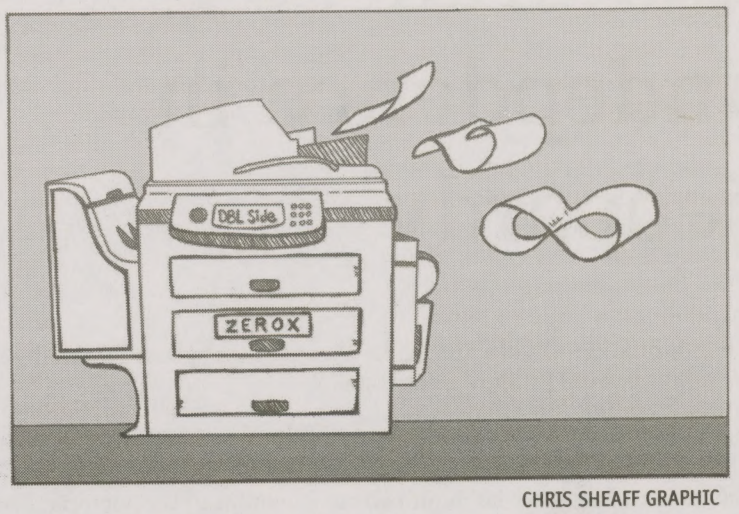
Lindsay said he is pleased that the ambitions of the Sustainable Paper Action Group—to make UVic more environmentally responsible—are shared with Patrick Konkin, the Student Facilities group manager of Computing User Services (COUS), and Mark Roman, chief information officer of Computing and Systems Services (CASS).

Last year, the Sustainable Paper Action Group organized an extensive survey of faculty from 14 departments to determine their level of support for double-sided printing at UVic. The group presented the overwhelmingly pro-paper-saving responses along with supporting research to Roman.

Roman said he has preferred printing double-sided for years and that the meeting with members of the Paper Action Group got the ball rolling.

"Their presentation made sense, so I sat down with Pat [Konkin] and asked what he thought of the idea and he said 'lets do it,'" said Roman. But, ensuring that the new default setting works properly with the printers, the server and both Apple and PC computers isn't simple. Konkin said CASS technical staff have been busy preparing and testing for the August 17 switch to double-sided printing.

Printers will still be capable of printing single-sided, but to do so will take a bit of effort from the person sending the document to the printer. Konkin said that they have anticipated some returning students may have initial difficulty adapting to the change. Staff are preparing to answer questions and offer assistance, and instructions will be posted in the labs.



CHRIS SHEAFF GRAPHIC

"After a month or so we'll be able to evaluate how students have adjusted to the change," said Konkin.

"All things considered, from a sustainability perspective it's just the right thing to do," said Roman. "We can't go to a paperless society, but we can go to a less paper society, and the more we can move in that direction the better."

Funding increase for B.C.'s most vulnerable students

Liberals have pledged millions for students with dependants

by Vanessa Lundgren

In an effort to promote education for all, $4 million will be added to grants for adult students enrolled in "developmental programs" and to students with dependants, the B.C. government recently announced.

According to the BC Liberals website, the increase will be split two ways. Students enrolled at "public post-secondary institutions taking developmental programs—which includes adult basic education [ABE], English as a second language and special education programs for those with disabilities," will receive $1 million of the funding. This boost will be added to help cover costs of books, supplies and tuition.

The funding increase will also be pumped into the current loan grant in place for ABE students and the Adult Basic Education Student Assistance Program (ABESAP).

The remaining $3 million will assist in loan reductions to students with dependants through the province's loan reduction program.

"With this additional funding, learners will have more support to get the education they need to participate in B.C.'s booming economy," said Premier Gordon Campbell, as posted on the BC Liberals website.

According to the website, Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell said, "These funding increases, along with the new spaces we're adding at post-secondary institutions across the province, make it a great time to get an education in B.C."

Penny Beames, chairperson for the UVic Students' Society, commended the latest funding increase, but is sceptical of Coell's assessment of present-day post-secondary education in B.C.

"I think responses coming from the ministry need to be handled with caution," said Beames.

"I believe it's a vital time to get an education for students in B.C. and Canada," said Scott Payne, B.C. Chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). "More than 70 per cent of jobs require post-secondary education." While Payne is pleased with the funding increase he said that the impacts of tuition increases and cuts in support services are being overlooked by Coell.

Although responses from CFS and UVSS are positive, both organizations say there's more to be done. The CFS recommends eliminating tuition fees for ABE courses at colleges, allowing students on Income Assistance to pursue post-secondary education, and reinstating the B.C. Grants Program, axed by the provincial government in 2004.

The ABE program is designed for adults wishing to complete their high school education. Academic upgrading courses are offered through school districts and public community colleges, often with hours tailored to work around the participants' work schedule. Students have the option to choose between going through the school district or a local community college to upgrade their education.

Last year, "26,846 students were enrolled in adult basic education at B.C. high schools," according to the BC Liberals website.

While the courses are tuition-free in high schools, this is not usually the case in colleges, where a course could cost up to $400, according to Payne. This can seem financially "insurmountable," he said, thereby creating a barrier to education.

Students are also responsible for covering such costs as application fees, ancillary fees and, as sometimes needed, assessment fees. Transportation and childcare costs are also often added to the bill. All of these expenses are not covered by the ABESAP grant.

Access to basic education is necessary and should not have a price to it, Payne said. The CFS has explicitly identified ABE students as "B.C.'s most vulnerable post-secondary students."

Often, they "come from lower socio-economic backgrounds—people least able to pay those fees," Payne said.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Minister Murray Coell.

Many ABE students had dropped out of high school, or if they stuck with it, they did so with barely passing grades, he said. They often enter academic upgrading programs, such as ABE, struggling to make ends meet for themselves and often for their family too.

Payne said the removal of tuition fees for basic education would increase access to education and enable these students to become "productive citizens, who can provide for themselves."

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Editorial

Editorial indepdence in jeopardy

The editorial content of a newspaper should be thought of as sacred, kept far away from the hands of advertisers.

But it doesn't always happen like that.

On Sunday, July 2, Vivian Smith wrote a column in the Victoria *Times Colonist* encouraging tourists to avoid the city's overpriced attractions and to instead explore the free options Victoria offers.

But Smith made a teeny error, mistaking the price of a child's admission at Butchart Gardens.

Three days later, Smith's contract with the paper was cut short and a retraction ran on the front page—an unorthodox move; usually they run on the second.

Tourism Victoria and Butchart Gardens reps had met with the publisher to express their concern over what Smith wrote. The group felt it came at an inappropriate time considering Victoria's slump in tourism revenue this year. And nothing is more inappropriate in Victoria than driving away tourists.

Both Smith and the staff of the CanWest MediaWorks-owned *Times Colonist* were assured that the paper does not allow advertising to affect its editorial content, but no alternate reason was given for letting Smith go.

The relationship between advertisers and editors is often one of tension. Advertisers constantly push for more value on the dollars they spend and may expect to be rewarded with flattering articles about their business. It's not their fault; they have a job to do. It's the responsibility of the advertising director, publisher and editor to make sure that doesn't happen.

In some news organizations, the publisher is more concerned with the bottom line than editorial independence. And of course papers need to make money, otherwise they won't be able to deliver any kind of content to readers. But, as soon an advertiser pushes and an editor gives in, room is opened for advertisers to make more demands.

At some magazines, such as *Maclean's*, the role of publisher and editor-in-chief have been rolled into one position, creating a clash between business and content. Last year *Maclean's* ran a series of features sponsored by General Motors, a move that some saw as a conflict of interest.

The media is mainly controlled by a small group of corporations, which made it unlikely for the public to find out about the Smith affair. CanWest not only owns the *Times Colonist*, but also *The Vancouver Sun*, *The Province* and CH television, so the investigation largely took place on the Internet.

Sean Holman, editor of PublicEyeOnline.com, updated his blog regularly with more information and interviews about the Smith debacle. Amid escalating media exposure (including an article in *Monday Magazine* by an anonymous *Times Colonist* staffer), Smith was rehired before July ended.

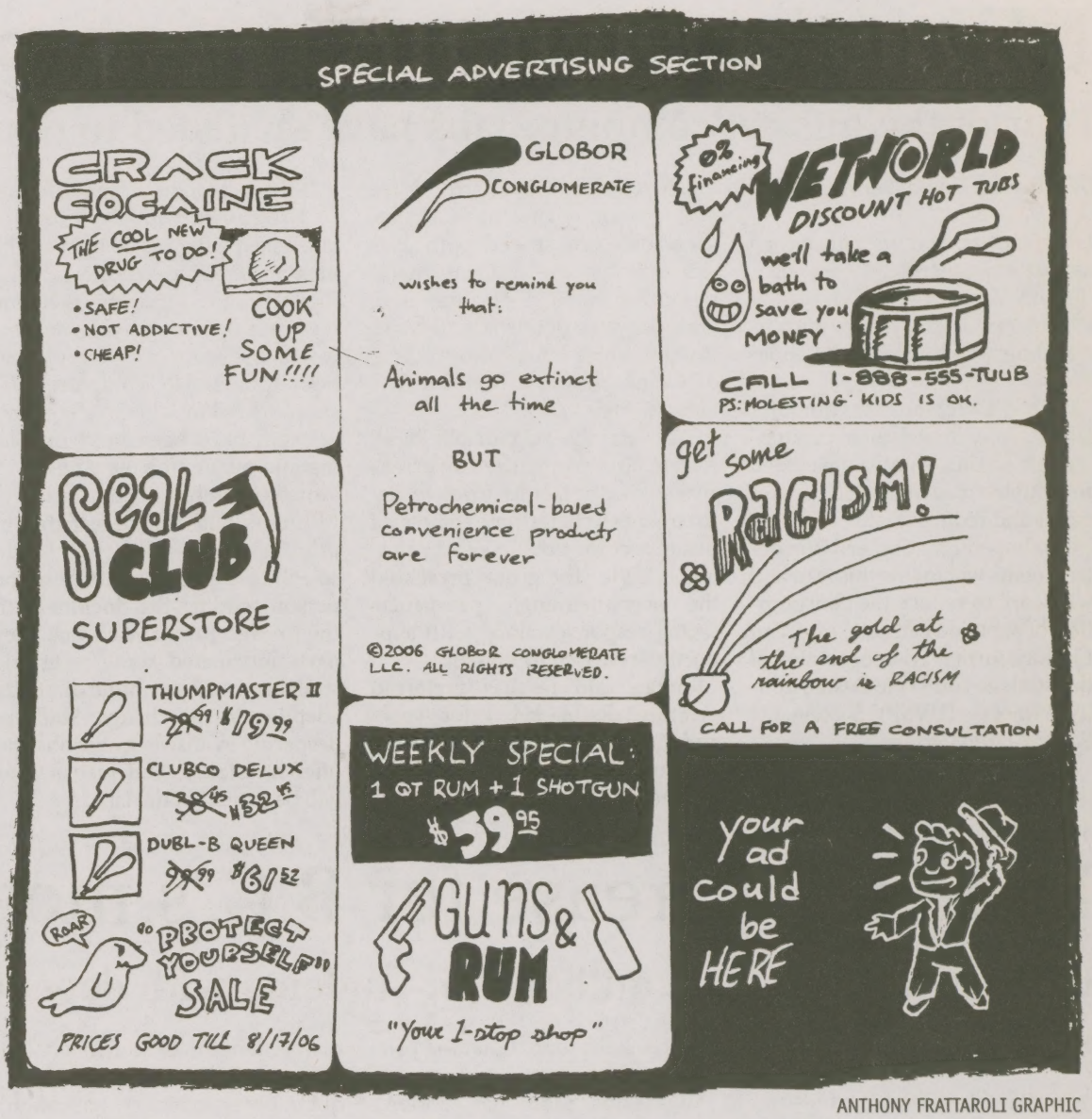
CanWest big shots were quick to distance themselves from the affair, expressing their disappointment and affirming that editorial independence is of the utmost importance. Although, a cynic might say that the apologies and Smith's rehiring were merely public relations damage control and wonder whether she would have been reinstated had no one found out.

Media conglomerates should have the financial stability to deny advertisers' requests to infringe on editorial, but are often interested in the advertising revenue above all else. If reporters can't write critically about flowers, then where is the line drawn?

Journalists and the media are supposed to act as society's watchdogs, reporting on the affairs of corporations, governments and people in power. The media should help citizens engage in democracy by providing them with context and information necessary to make decisions about their municipality, city or country. When advertising infringes on this fundamental goal of journalism, our role as a democratic society is undermined.

Any complaints about content from advertisers should be met with a light apology and a reminder of what the function of newspaper is—not a reckless firing.

Feeling angry? Mad? Frustrated? Aroused?
E-mail your letters to the editor at letters@martlet.ca.



ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Looking forward to doomsday

Last month's "Rating Doomsday Scenarios" was another classic example of an ignorant perspective of God and the Bible. It is clear that Mr. Baskerville put at least a little bit of time and effort into the explanations of his first four possible doomsday scenarios, yet the "Biblical Apocalypse" scenario was formulated from an uneducated opinion, giving an unfair perspective on an event that gives hope to many.

Firstly, the biblical apocalypse has nothing to do with "the destruction of the Earth"; it is about the future renewal of the Earth. Humans are the "destructive bastards" who are building nuclear weapons, causing global warming, spreading viruses and hoarding food. God intends to stop all of this, bringing peace, freedom and prosperity to a renewed Earth that does not sweep its inhabitants away in floods or swallow them up in earthquakes.

Consider God to be a great dad with a big yard for his kids to play in. There are plenty of toys in the yard, enough for everyone in the neighbourhood to come over and play together. But when the neighbourhood kids are starting fights and breaking toys a good dad sends them home in order to protect his own kids, and to keep his yard a fun place to play. That day is yet to come, the "doomsday" as some call it. If that is the end of the world as we know it, and a better world is coming, then I'm looking forward to it.

Dave Funk

Retirement should be enjoyed

Bravo! At least someone sees the light about letting workaholics overstay their welcome in the workplace. Two thirds of retired people are more than happy with their new estate in life. Are governments going rob them of their happiness by forcing them to stay 'til they're 67 like in Britain, or even longer?

And, what about the daft old farts who will remain in the workplace well past their sell-by dates, robbing those at the entry level of their promotions? If you ask me it is those A-types in the medical and Freudian sense of the term who are costing their employers plenty of dosh because of their bad executive decisions by reason of the incipient Alzheimer's they're suffering from. And, they will stay on until they drop at their desks from strokes or heart attacks.

I've taken early retirement, and it's wonderful not to have to put up with people who suffer from hypertension owing to their excessively puckered sphincters.

There are more than a few of those working in the McPherson Library!

Cheers!

Jan D. Horn

We're hiring!

The *Martlet* is looking for energetic and exciting people to fill the following positions:

News editor
Sports editor
Arts editor
Features editor
Opinions editor
Production assistant
Photo editor
Graphics editor
Copy editor

Bring your resumé, a cover letter stating which position(s) you are applying for, and samples of your work (if applicable) to the *Martlet* office (SUB B011) by 4:00 p.m. September 14, 2006.

All applicants must apply for Work Study authorization (at the Student Awards and Financial Aid office in University Centre). All applicants who have applied will be given equal consideration, whether or not they are approved for Work Study. Those that do not apply will not be considered.

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Letters: *Martlet* has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community, with priority given to undergraduate students. Letters must be typewritten, submitted on disk or by e-mail and include your name and student number for verification. Letters must be under 200 words. Deadline for letters is noon on the Friday before publication date. Letters will be prioritized by order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed.

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The *Martlet* is looking for somebody to distribute our paper to our drop-off points downtown. We supply the bicycle and trailer. Get some exercise, earn some cash and have a fun time while doing it. Be a vital part of the *Martlet* team!

Submit your resumé and cover letter by September 1.

This position is not applicable for Work Study. Applicants do not need to apply.

Canadiana at the cinema

Our tax dollars are funding Canadian movies we don't even bother to see

by David Karp

Try naming five Canadian movies. Forget that—try naming just one. Harder than you thought, eh?

For all the talk about Vancouver being Hollywood North and about B.C. having a booming film industry, we don't have much to boast about. The top Canadian movie at the box office was a 1981 flick called *Porky's*, somewhat of a prehistoric *American Pie*. It took in over $100 million US, not too shabby considering that was 25 years ago.

However, *Porky's* seems to have been a fluke. Since then, our most successful English film is the curling comedy *Men With Brooms*, taking in a measly $4.2 million US, less than what it cost to make the film. Quebec films have been more successful—most recently the blockbuster drama *C.R.A.Z.Y.* raked in over $6 million CDN in 2005.

Our tax dollars are funding Canadian movies we don't even bother to see. Telefilm Canada received $197 million for the 2004-05 fiscal year from the government. That's more than $6 per Canadian.

But that's not to say American movies rule the world. As I write this, the film *Wahed Men El-Nas* is topping box office charts in Egypt. What's so special about this dramatic thriller about a poor Egyptian man wrongfully accused of murder? It's Egyptian.

And in Japan, a cartoon is currently the most popular choice among moviegoers—and it has a distinctly Japanese flavour with its colourful anime style. *Gedo Senki* stole the top spot at the Japanese box office from *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*.

Meanwhile, *Gwoemul*, a monster film about a family who tries to rescue a loved one from a slimy demon, is tearing up the South Korean record books. Did I mention the film was made in South Korea?

Why should we care? Because movies tell a people's stories. They are cultural works that give us something to identify with. This is even more important in a multicultural country like Canada, where figuring out what it means to be Canadian can be a little tough. Going to the theatre and seeing a great Canadian film helps remind us what being Canadian is all about.

This isn't a problem with music. It doesn't take too long to come up with a handful of famous Canadian music acts—Avril Lavigne, Nellie Furtado and Sam Roberts are just a few.

One reason for their success is the Canadian Content Rules. The government put these in place in 1969, forcing radio stations to ensure 35 per cent of the music they play is Canadian.

The problem is that there are no Canadian content regulations for movie theatres. If there were, you'd see movie theatres promoting Canadian films out of necessity. You'd see more Canadian films made because theatres would actually buy them. More people would watch Canadian movies because they're able to. And with more people watching their films, producers wouldn't have to go running to Telefilm for our tax dollars to increase their budgets.

But most of all, we'd have films we can be proud of. A renewed appreciation of what it means to be Canadian—and a good movie with a bucket of warm, buttery popcorn.

AIDS conference shunned by Harper

Canada is 'delinquent beyond deliquency' in dealing with the epidemic

by Dan Ben-Aron

Hundreds of doctors, scientists and policy-makers from around the world have descended on Toronto for the 16th International AIDS Conference. This is the single largest conference of its kind in the world, and represents a convergence of the leaders of the fight against the virus.

In the lead-up to this event, talking heads have talked and experts have opined. One prominent expert on the global crisis is Canadian Stephen Lewis. Lewis is the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa, and he recently described Canada's response to the crisis as "delinquent beyond delinquency." The very scale of the humanitarian disaster leaves Lewis struggling to describe its magnitude—and for good reason. If anyone were to put the vastness of this disaster into words, it would be Stephen Lewis; his inability leads to the conclusion that it is an event the scale of which defies encapsulation in the English language.

There seems little point in trying to render comprehensible the facts and figures that are used to fix the scope of the virus. Instead, why not consider what's not being said about AIDS at the conference.

A good place to start would be with another famous Canadian named Stephen. Unlike Lewis, who is known for his words, Mr. Harper is known for his lack thereof. Particularly noticeable is the prime minister's decision not to attend the Toronto conference. Indeed, not only is the conference attended by the who's who of international health and humanitarian aid community, but top billing his year goes to Bill Gates, who recently donated $500 million to the cause, and Bill Clinton, who in a show of genuine compassion has waived his $200,000 speaking fee. Warmed by the glow of the world's richest man and a former U.S. president, the show will no doubt go on, but Harper's no-show remains a black mark on Canada's self-styled image as international do-gooders.

Or does it? In a sense, Mr. Harper's decision not to attend a major international humanitarian conference in Toronto is consistent with the views of Canadian politicians and their constituents. Happy to pay lip service to the importance of this crisis and the urgency with which it must be dealt, Canada has been, well, delinquent, when called to action. The ongoing and consistent pattern of Canadian hypocrisy when confronting the AIDS crisis is shameful and embarrassing.

The numbers speak for themselves. Since the inception of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in 2000, Canada has pledged $100 million US (plus additional aid in Canadian dollars). While this may sound like a significant sum, in global terms it is a pittance. Canada's contribution has been dwarfed by countries such as Spain and the Netherlands, never mind Gates and Canada's G8 cousins.

Our country's contribution has been remarkable only for failing to meet its potential.

Climate change and its pornographic photo shoot

Conflicting messages about global warming lead to an apathetic public

by Mike Vasilev

It looks like they finally did it. Al Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* sealed the deal. Despite not being elected and all his best efforts to lose the political baggage, at the end of the day, Al Gore is a political person and what he does is seen in a very political light. And so the republican half of America just lost interest in climate change.

But politics isn't the only thing numbing people to climate change. The current conversation looks "confusing, contradictory, and chaotic," found a new report from the British Institute for Public Policy Research. With so many voices and so much bickering surrounding climate change, the overarching message to the public is that "nobody knows"—and, for many, the result is apathy.

The report examined not the science but the communication behind the world's favourite new doomsday scenario. After sifting through extensive news coverage, the report found 10 different ways the topic is discussed.

The most common message is "alarmism"—what the report also calls "climate porn." Alarmism is marked by shocking visuals, cataclysmic language and exclamation marks. It gets your attention. Alarmism is everywhere, from tabloids to Greenpeace to *The Washington Post*.

While provoking and perhaps secretly thrilling, "climate porn" is otherwise very damaging. Alarmist headlines such as "Climate of Fear," or "A world of climate chaos spiralling out of control!" are more than depressing, they're downright demoralizing. They magnify the problem while downplaying the possibility of a solution. When you're promised "the end of the world as we know it," remembering to take out the recycling and to ride your bike to work doesn't seem so pressing.

Another common message is to take "small actions." This entails asking people to do a few small 'n' easy things, such as turning down the thermostat or taking the bus. But next to headlines about the coming Day of Reckoning, the suggestions become meaningless.

Careless communication has made the issue look like a joke. Like Bush with democracy, alarmism undermines the credibility of global warming. Many write off the danger of climate change as a concoction of hysterical hippies or doom-mongering journalists.

Doom mongering may not be their intent, but journalists do enjoy a little embellishment. Climate change is a newsperson's dream. It's got it all: apocalyptic possibilities, political implications, and enough uncertainty and speculation to go around.

However, climate change is about the deviation of a natural, 10,000-year-long cycle, and so the story develops very slowly—far too slowly to keep up with the other doomsday scenarios making the news, and too slowly to keep the attention-deficit public tuned in.

So they jazz it up a little. They throw in a little flair. They mention the apocalypse. They sell the story.

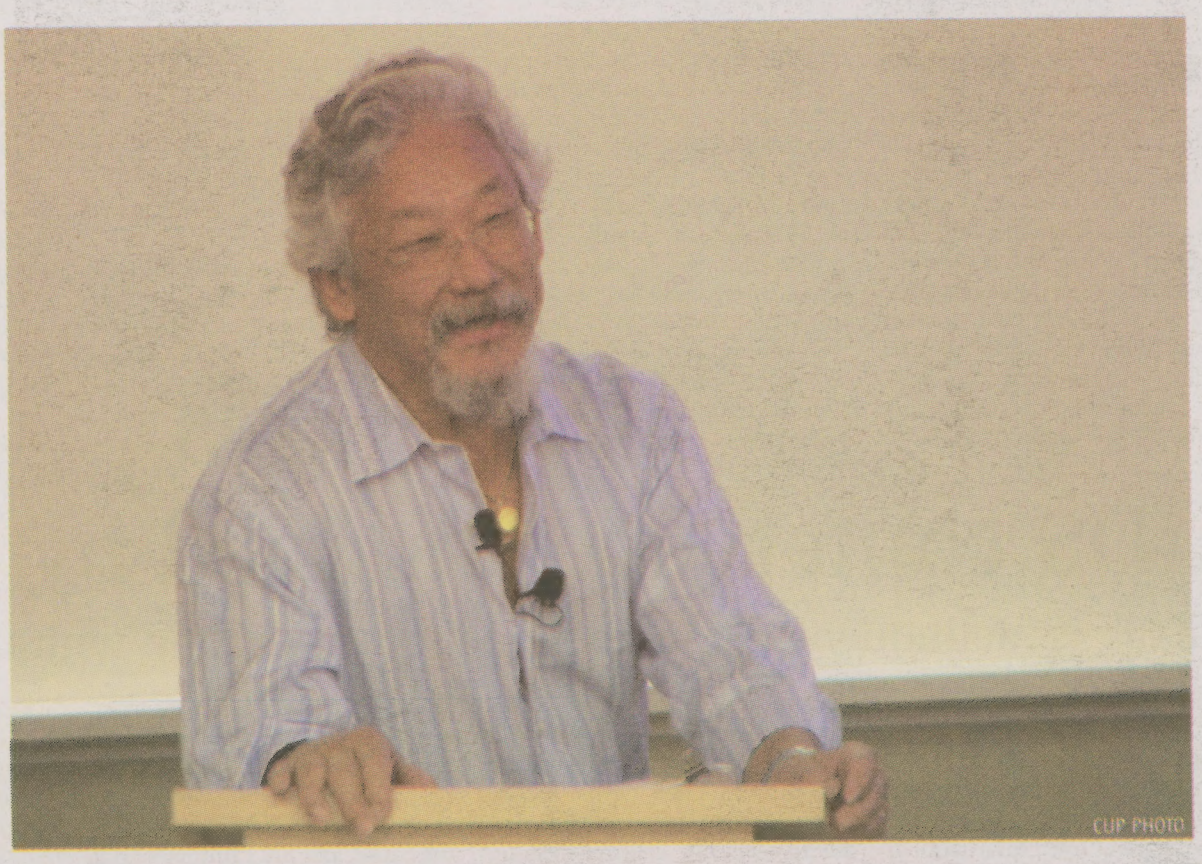
We need to find a balance between presenting climate change as a large problem, and presenting it as such a big problem that people feel powerless to stop it. We also need to stop arguing about it. Disengage from the debate and talk about climate change as if the argument is already won. Begin concentrating on solutions, and solutions that people will take seriously. Not just recycling—solutions on the same scale as the problem.

Above all, climate-friendly behaviour needs to be desirable. The report recommends branding it and selling it like a product. Make climate-friendliness cool. If this is so, then Al Gore is clearly the wrong man to lead the way. We need a salesman, someone that can shamelessly sell anything. We need Wayne Gretzky.

One on one with David Suzuki

The scientist speaks about childhood, family and the power of the people

by William Wolfe-Wylie,
Canadian University Press


CUP PHOTO

Since the early '90s, the environment has increasingly taken a back seat to the economy. Green initiatives need to be proven economically viable before they are implemented, because the economy, not the environment, drives the bottom line.

"Well this is nonsense, of course," said David Suzuki.

Suzuki, world-renowned environmentalist and scientist, is crossing Canada to promote his recently released autobiography. Along the way, he's taking the opportunity to tell Canadians about the origins of the David Suzuki Foundation, promote sustainable living thereof) of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

But Suzuki does not work alone, and this is one of the ultimate messages of both his autobiography and speaking tour, he said. People should realize that everything he has received credit for has been the result of dozens of people working in the background: Tara, his wife, who organized all the international paperwork and learned Portuguese for their trips to the Amazon; writers and researchers at *The Nature of Things with David Suzuki*; the film and sound editors who make him look good; the publicists who organize his speaking tours. It's all a team effort.

CUP PHOTO

"It would be a terrible conceit for any one person or organization to believe they are going to turn the ship around," he said.

Instead, he says, his greatest contribution to Canada has been his children. Indeed, in their young lives they have established themselves at the top of their chosen professions.

Tamiko, the oldest, graduated from McGill University with a degree in biology and is now a chromosome analyst with a children's hospital in Vancouver. Troy, his only son, studied filmmaking at the Emily Carr Institute. Laura is a psychology graduate from Queen's University and an accomplished writer. Severn graduated from Yale with a degree in ecology and evolutionary biology and has been working on a graduate degree in ethnobotany at the University of Victoria. Sarika has a degree from Berkeley in marine biology.

"They take education very seriously," said Suzuki.

But for a man who has travelled across every continent filming, interviewing, fighting, touring, promoting and fundraising, he still finds time to spend with his family in British Columbia. Every July and August are reserved entirely for them.

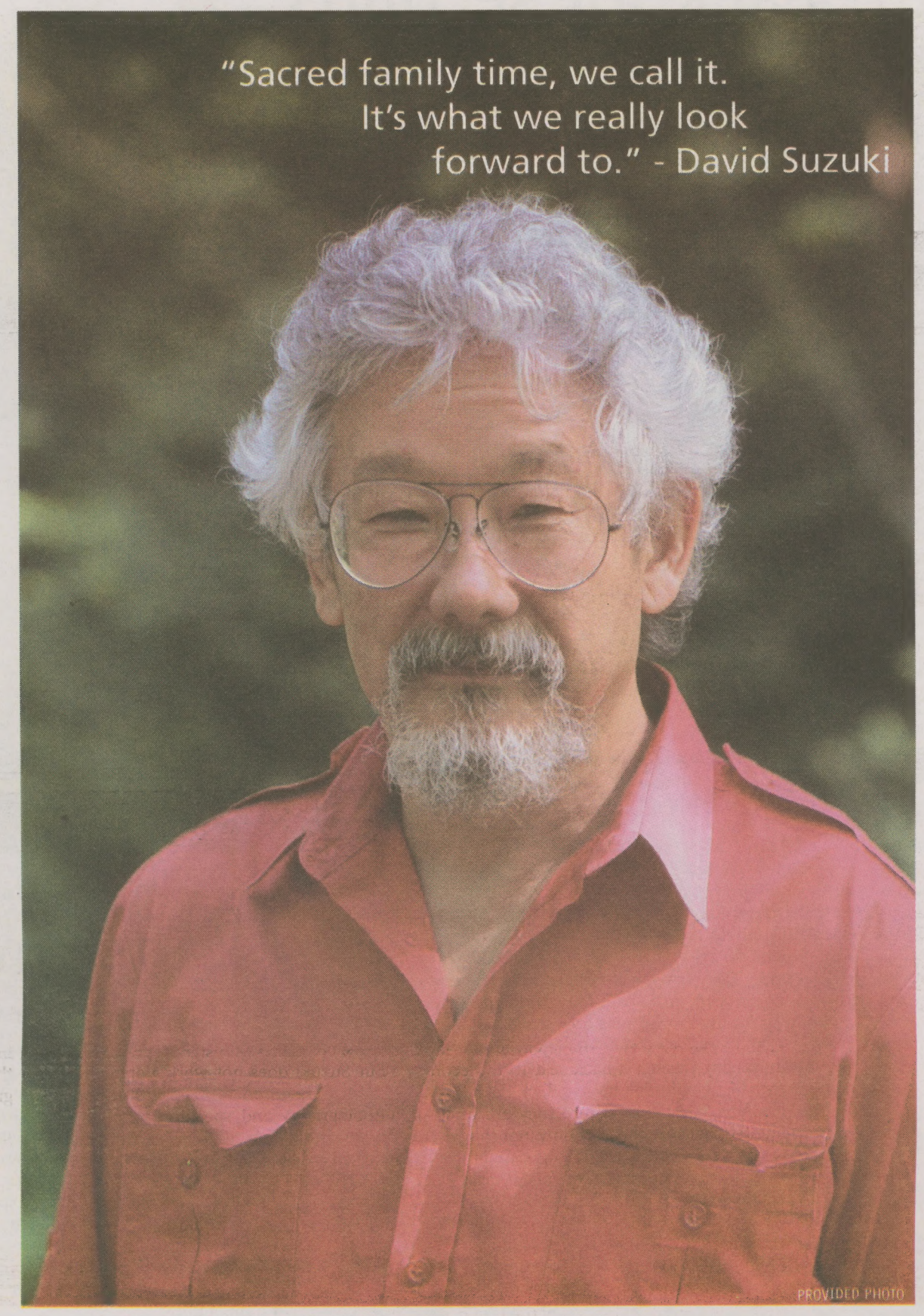
"Sacred family time, we call it," he said in a phone interview. "It's what we really look forward to."

Part of the goal in the early education of the children was to teach them all food is seasonal. When cherries were ripening, the family would spend some time in B.C.'s Okanagan valley and regularly ship some of the harvest to their aboriginal extended families (Suzuki has been adopted by a number of First Nations peoples, including the Haida in B.C.) on the coast.

And he has always been in near-constant contact with his wife, Tara. She often travels with him as an integral part of the foundation as well as a number of other projects. But when out filming *The Nature of Things*, this isn't always possible. So they phone each other every single day they're apart.

The tradition began while Tara was in graduate studies and there were thousands of miles separating them for months at a time. They vowed to make one phone call per day to each other, regardless of the expense, to stay in touch. Thirty years later that tradition holds strong. So strong, in fact, that Suzuki has had the expense of that daily phone call written in to all of his contracts with the CBC.

And in a sense, this simple tradition with his wife is an extension of his general philosophical approach to life. Suzuki believes



PROVIDED PHOTO

Top left: Suzuki speaks about his life. Bottom left: Suzuki as a child. Right: Suzuki today.

that people are defined by their action and has been promoting a grassroots approach to promoting environmentalism.

He pointed out that in the late '80s and early '90s the destruction of the Amazon was on everybody's mind. The planned logging of Clayoquot Sound in B.C. spawned the production of dozens of documentaries and howls of outrage from the general public. The result was political action and the creation of a number of protected areas in old-growth forests.

But times have changed, he said. Now the economy is what everyone is talking about. And we have no one to blame but ourselves. Blaming politicians is easy, he said, but politicians take their cues from us.

"We begin to show leadership and they will follow our example," he said.

With this in mind, he produced two programs to encourage individual action on a simple level and combined it with a broad-based program to be taken on by governments and environmental organizations alike.

The Nature Challenge is available through the foundation's website (www.davidsuzuki.org) and lists 10 simple challenges, such as "not eating meat one day per week," that help conserve nature. The program requests that individuals pledge to complete three of the 10 challenges.

Suzuki argues if he can show that one million Canadians are willing to take the challenge, politicians will be forced by their electorate to sign on as well, forcing real policy change.

Sustainability within a Generation is the other program. The 62-page report was originally designed to outline concrete steps that would move Canada toward sustainability, with goals including "eliminating perverse subsidies" such as those provided to forestry and fossil fuel industries. Organizations in the United States and Australia have already drafted their own versions of the document based on Suzuki's model. However, Canada's newly elected prime minister has been less receptive to the document.

"He turned me down flat," said Suzuki. But this only re-affirmed his notion that change has to come from the people. "I don't care who gets in the next election," he said, noting that what people force politicians to pay attention to is what matters. "We have to put climate and the environment back at the top of the agenda."

Suzuki's love of the environment began at a young age and he still believes that introducing young children to the complexities of the natural world will pay off. He remembers collecting bugs from a local swamp and how his mother would swoon over his discoveries. He sees children now whose parents yell at them for tracking mud into the house and despairs.

"The lesson is that nature is dirty and disgusting or dangerous. And that is the wrong lesson."

After all, the apparent thesis of his book is the importance of childhood's formative years for development of the person. In Suzuki's case, it is the effects of racism, notably time spent in B.C.'s internment camps during the Second World War, that still haunt him.

"I hated what I looked like and I do to this day," he said.

"Over time, we acquire a veneer of personality that enables us to move among and interact with others, but beneath it remain all the unremembered experience with family and the fears, hurt, and insecurities of childhood, which others cannot see," Suzuki writes in his autobiography. "For me, the alienation that began with our evacuation from the coast of British Columbia and continued through high school has remained a fundamental part of who I am, all my life, despite the acquired veneer of adult maturity."

THE NATURE CHALLENGE

For people wanting to conserve nature and improve their quality of life, Suzuki recommends taking his Nature Challenge.

His foundation researched the 10 most effective ways to make a positive change to our world and asks people to commit to three.

1. Reduce home energy by 10 per cent.
2. Eat meat-free meals once a week.
3. Buy a fuel efficient, low-polluting car.
4. Choose an energy efficient home and appliances.
5. Stop using pesticides.
6. Walk, bike or take transit to regular destinations.
7. Prepare your meals with locally produced food.
8. Choose a home close to regular destinations.
9. Support alternatives to the car.
10. Get involved, stay informed.

Cannibal! back for seconds

by Kim Armstrong

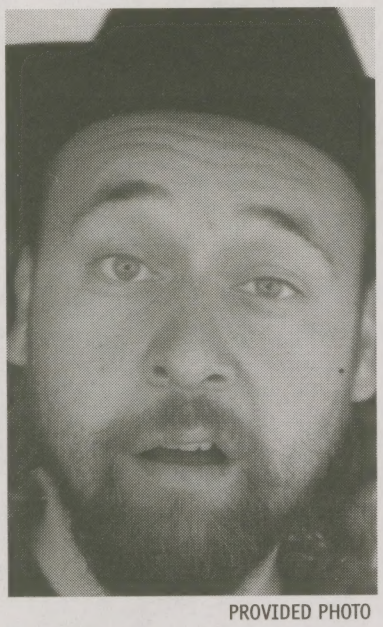
In 1873, Alferd Packer was hired to guide a group of prospectors through Colorado Territory. He emerged from the wilderness next spring, curiously well-fed, and with the prospectors' belongings but not the men themselves.

After two murder trials, multiple creative confessions, and more than a century, *South Park* creator Trey Parker was hit with inspiration. And *Cannibal! The Musical* was wrenched bloody from the womb and brought into the world. Believe it or not, it's a comedy.

"Last year when we did the show, it got touted as this big *Oklahoma!* meets *Jack the Ripper*, so a lot of people didn't see it because they thought it was a lot more violent than it is," says Michael Delamont, who is both acting and producing the play for this year's Fringe Festival. "The violence is off-screen and it's in shadow. I don't think it's like *Evil Dead: The Musical*, it's just—people get eaten. It's your average musical."

"It's very exciting. It's an adventure," says David MacPherson, the director. "It has all the elements of regular direction, where you have to worry about blocking and characters," as well as stranger things, such as finding "edible human flesh for the actors to eat, which is not part of normal theatre."

Wild props include a necktie made out of a tongue, and guns made out of certain parts of the male anatomy—if you squeeze the testicles, the tip flies off. Rehearsal, therefore, is punctuated by a certain amount of projectile activity, and plaintive cries of "Have you seen my penis?" harmonise with enthusiastic strains of the song, "When I Was On Top of You."



PROVIDED PHOTO

Steve Barker as Alferd Packer in *Cannibal! The Musical*.

"It's theatre extreme," says MacPherson.

With a total of 21 days rehearsal time, the show is running on a tight schedule. Three weeks is considered standard for a professional show, but most professional rehearsals run eight-hour days, while *Cannibal!*, which opens on August 25, must make do with a few hours a night.

"We have the advantage that it's a remount," says MacPherson. Indeed, all but one of the *Cannibal!* team members are repeat offenders. Kate Humble, the show's musical director and the actress who plays reporter Polly Pry, has flown in from Toronto to participate in the musical for the second year in a row.

"I think this time around we're really improving it," says Humble, who graduated from UVic's theatre department, "which is really exciting, to be able to take a second stab at a project and say, 'Wow, how can I make an already successful project more impressive and dynamic?'"

Sarah Wallin, the show's stage manager and another UVic theatre grad, is also back for another round with *Cannibal!* "It's great fun," she says. "It's also a lot of work, because we have a large cast, a small budget, and a short rehearsal time."

Of making the transition from student to working stiff, Wallin says, "It's very different. My experience at the Phoenix certainly helps, but at university we have a certain amount of privilege." Having all of the equipment, facilities and help you need, for one. "Working outside, if you screw up, it's your job."

Being part of the Fringe Festival has made it easier for *Cannibal!* to run a second time. The festival does more than supply the venue, technical crew and advertising.

"The Fringe already has an audience base, a core group of people that come to see the shows," says Wallin. "On our own, we were begging people to come."

"It's so much fun, and the Victoria Fringe Festival is awesome," says Humble.

"We're not a huge Fringe ... but we're a very popular Fringe for performers. It's relaxed here, and the audiences are good," says Ian Case, general manager of Intrepid Theatre, the company that has produced Fringe for 20 years.

Fringe offers self-produced shows an "opportunity to take advantage of a large community of people doing the same thing," says Case. "It's really sort of an eclectic mix of performances, which is exciting. We don't really get that [in Victoria] throughout the year."

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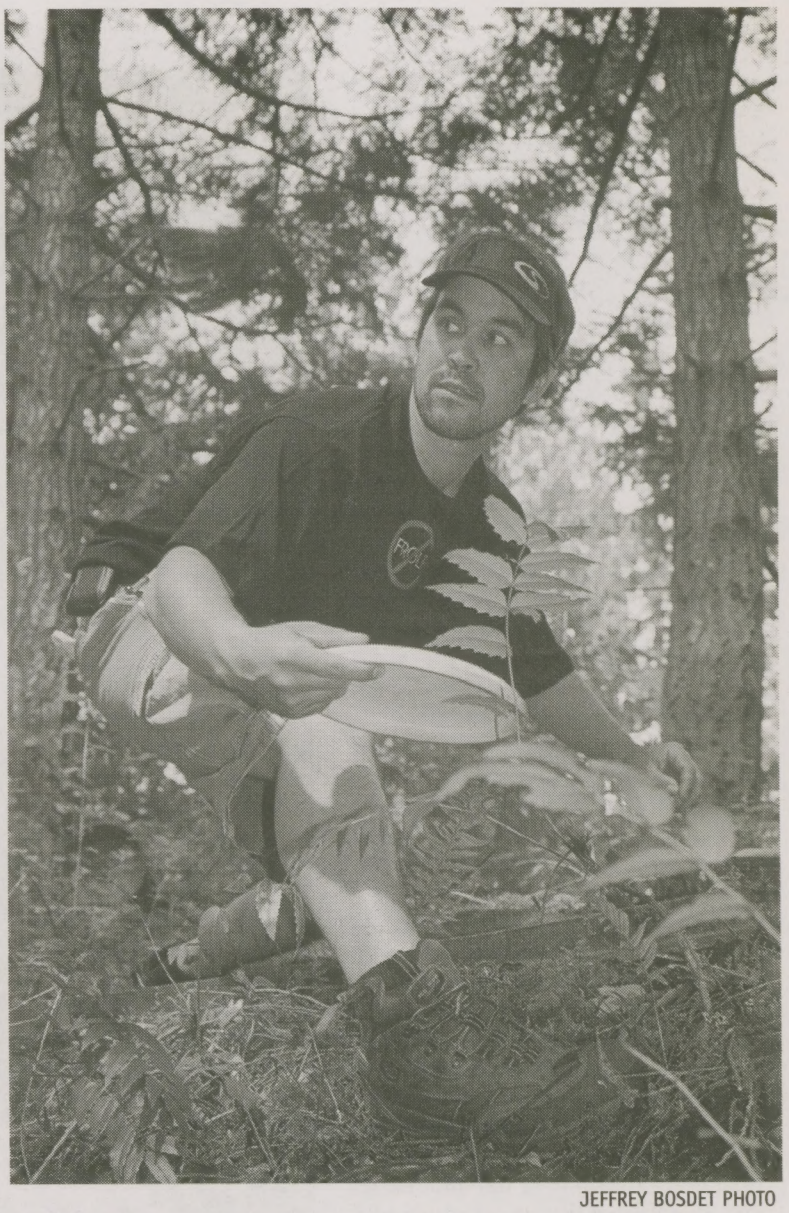


JEFFREY BOSDET PHOTO

Disc golfer George White stars in local documentary.

Snap premieres

by Rosie Westwood

Something forbidden took place in UVic parking lots last year. It involved coloured disks flying through the night, the denting of cars and drinking of beer. It was—and still is—disk golf. On July 28, followers of the fast-growing sport gathered at UVic's David Lam Auditorium for the premiere of *Snap*, Victoria filmmaker Sean White's documentary about the sport and subculture.

Easily spotted by bright hooded sweatshirts and Oakley sunglasses perched on their heads, disk golf enthusiasts filled the auditorium to watch three local golfers, Matt Macdonald, George (White's brother), and Jeffery Bosdet, star in what Sean White says this is the first documentary to explore the world of disk golf.

"The only thing you find are tournament or how-to videos with lower quality of production," said the filmmaker over coffee a few days before the premier. "There's no story arc showing character or action."

The documentary was filmed entirely in B.C. and funded by White himself. It follows the golfers and their friend Skye Beddington as they compete in two tournaments and develop their own superior disk—"The Whitler."

A summer game of disk golf, often mistakenly called Frisbee golf, played on Salt Spring Island last year gave me an inkling of the enthusiasm that a growing number of West Coasters have for the strategy, drama and glory of the game. But these guys blew me away.

Their intense dedication to the sport, combined with their awareness of how funny that is, drives the comedy, and the story. (One admits, "We jerk off to disk magazines.")

White wanted a raw look at the sport, and the characterization that flows from letting the golfers be themselves gives the documentary widespread appeal. From MacDonald's overzealous commitment to George's mini-tantrums, Bosdet's relaxed enthusiasm and Beddington's bad-boy vibe, these guys are what makes the film.

The repetitive shots of putts made, putts missed and long drives may have entertained some, but they began to all look the same to me. White calls these shots "disk golf porn." The rest of the documentary was a fascinating and funny insiders look at a subculture on the brink of entering the mainstream.

"It's a full-on developed sport in the U.S., but more underground in Canada," White said. "There's no national organization."

He compared West Coast disk golf, which was created in the '70s, to the rebel lifestyle of surfing or skateboarding.

"It's guys in the bush with their crazy outfits, going for it."

Like those sports, disk golf is not new, especially not in B.C.—White estimated that disk golf has been played at UVic for 20 years.

While this province is a hotbed for the sport, White said that it's growing everywhere. "There are good players in Calgary, and Toronto has a strong following."

White expects to see a disk golf course on every North American university campus in the coming years. For UVic disk golfers, playing on a makeshift course at night is over—after filming began, a disk golf course was erected in the fields near Mystic Vale at UVic.

The denting of cars may be stemmed, but as the guys gathered around the new course at the end of the documentary, they demonstrated one thing that can't be separated from the game. With cans of beer raised in the air and one can emptied into their new disk, one remarked, "This is the life."

Laws and high fees hurt spirit of busking

by Amy Geddes

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Plasterman, a local busker.

A woman dressed as a mermaid sits on the Inner Harbour causeway pretending she's asleep. She's poised with an accordion silent in her bosom, glittering with green and blue sequins. Two eight-year-old twin girls approach her, whispering to each other, unsure if they should wake her, if they should touch her, or what their role should be in this game. The mermaid remains frozen for three minutes, letting them almost believe she isn't going to wake for them. But just as the girls begin to lose hope, she rouses—at first with a pip of her accordion and then her eyes snap open as she breaks into a full, bust-heaving accordion play. The girls cover their mouths with delight. Coins fall into the mermaid's upturned hat decorated with seashells, in return for a photo with the girls' father.

Interacting with the public is what busking is all about. Buskers share the sidewalk with their audience and share a love for spur-of-the-moment entertainment. But buskers are now constrained by a long list of legal and social rules here in Victoria and around the world.

Buskers are pretty much anyone with an act that entertains people in a public place. An upturned item to receive change is their signature prop, but many buskers hit the streets with a greater purpose—they see themselves as part of an art form that defies class, brings entertainment to the people and keeps performance live.

It's illegal to busk downtown without a licence in Victoria. Last year, when responsibility of the Inner Harbour shifted from the city to the harbour authority, the price of an annual street performer's licence went up from a $15 nominal fee to $400. Musicians now pay $180. Buskers' insurance is also mandatory; Jugglers pay $210 and other types of street performers pay about $100.

A Saturday afternoon stroll down Government to the Inner Harbour will lead you past a marimba band, a violin-playing Darth Vader, the Acrobatica gymnasts, Tallulah the comedian (a wonder-woman spin-off dressed in tights), and Plasterman, the living statue—all of them have licences either with the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA) or the City of Victoria, depending on where they busk.

"What the Harbour Authority is doing down there is not right." said Darth Zorak—a Darth Vader look-alike who removed his helmet for a moment to speak. Zorak is a well-known Victoria street performer who plays violin with a light sabre in his belt.

"You can't take a public space and make it exclusive like that," he said. High-priced licences undoubtedly leave out a certain class of street performers. The fees are an additional strain on struggling buskers for whom entertaining in the streets for a living is often a difficult way of life.

Busker licences are common in many cities. A huge part of busking is taking your acts around the world, but restrictions in each city mean buskers run the risk of being ticketed or arrested. In Kuwait, where begging is illegal, a busker may be thrown in jail. In Venice and California, jugglers can be arrested if they perform without a permit.

Acrobatica, a group of three gymnasts, former UVic students, are looking forward to taking their "acro-balancing" act around the world. They perform in front of Milestones, the line that marks the beginning of the Inner Harbour. This spot is outside the jurisdiction of the Harbour Authority where licences are required by the city. Some buskers avoid the Inner Harbour because it's cheaper to buy a city licence, leaving the area exclusive to those who can afford the licences.

Jambanja, a six-member Zimbabwean marimba band that frequents Government Street during the summer, has almost outgrown its busking venue, with crowds spilling out onto the street to listen. Yet Melissa Chigamba, one of the group's founders, said she's not ready to leave busking behind.

"I feel like our purpose is to bring the music to people—homeless people or anyone else who can't afford to pay to see a concert," she said. "We spread music on a wider level. When you're out there busking you reach everyone, ranging from two-year-olds to 90-year-olds. Everybody gets a chance to hear and experience music that is healing."

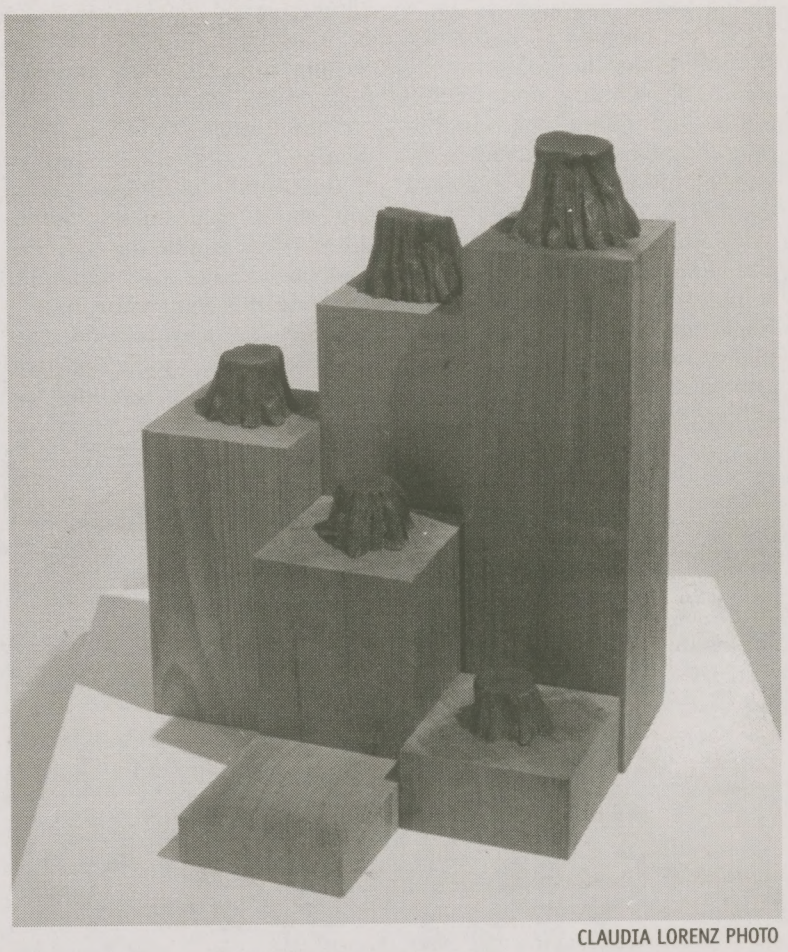
Darth Zorak shares the sentiment that buskers have a critical role to play.

"I am down here to get musical culture back into an abscessing community where they need it most—in the streets. I am the antithesis of the rock star."

Art reflects environment

Exhibit showcases how artists approach sustainability

by Jessica Smith



CLAUDIA LORENZ PHOTO

"Cedar Stumps," a diminishing series by Karen Rudd.

Only Will Weigler's legs are in the room when he starts talking, the rest of him follows them down the ladder and out of the ceiling of a broom closet of Xchanges Gallery. The closet will soon become a sort of multimedia room for showing a video of Weigler's play *Common Wealth*.

It's not an ideal venue for the play, which was last performed in a circus tent, but Weigler explains that, "In this gallery setting it's really about the way different artists have approached the same subject."

Sustainability is the subject of *Beneath the Surface: Artists and Scientists Reflect on Conservation*, the exhibit at Xchanges Gallery on William Street until August 27. Weigler is one of nine artists sponsored by The Earthwatch Institute to volunteer as a research assistant on expeditions at either a salmon habitat or an archeological dig, on the condition that they would create art about their experiences once they came home.

Weigler's approach to his subject, the unearthing of an 1890s homestead near Barrington Washington, was to tie the past and present with community drama surrounding the area's history. A century ago the homestead belonged to the Bedals, a mixed family of an American settler and the daughter of a Sauk-Suiattle chief. In 2005, Weigler recruited 45 amateur actors from the logging town and the Indian Reservation in hopes of finding commonality between the two groups, despite the tensions.

"It moved people to tears," he says.

As Weigler explains how he turned a small town into a theatre troupe, Claudia Lorenz, the president of Xchanges Gallery and Artist–Run Centre, comes down the stairs from her workshop, green paint up to her wrists.

Lorenz works with "merged-media," combining natural and found objects, and paint. The paint on her hands comes from an unfinished painting—her focus is the process of archeology that she learned on the dig. She explains that it took her awhile to figure out why researchers impose a grid system on the forest.

"In order to understand this huge interconnected mass of information you have to put boxes around it that you can measure, and standardize," she says. "It's all about communication."

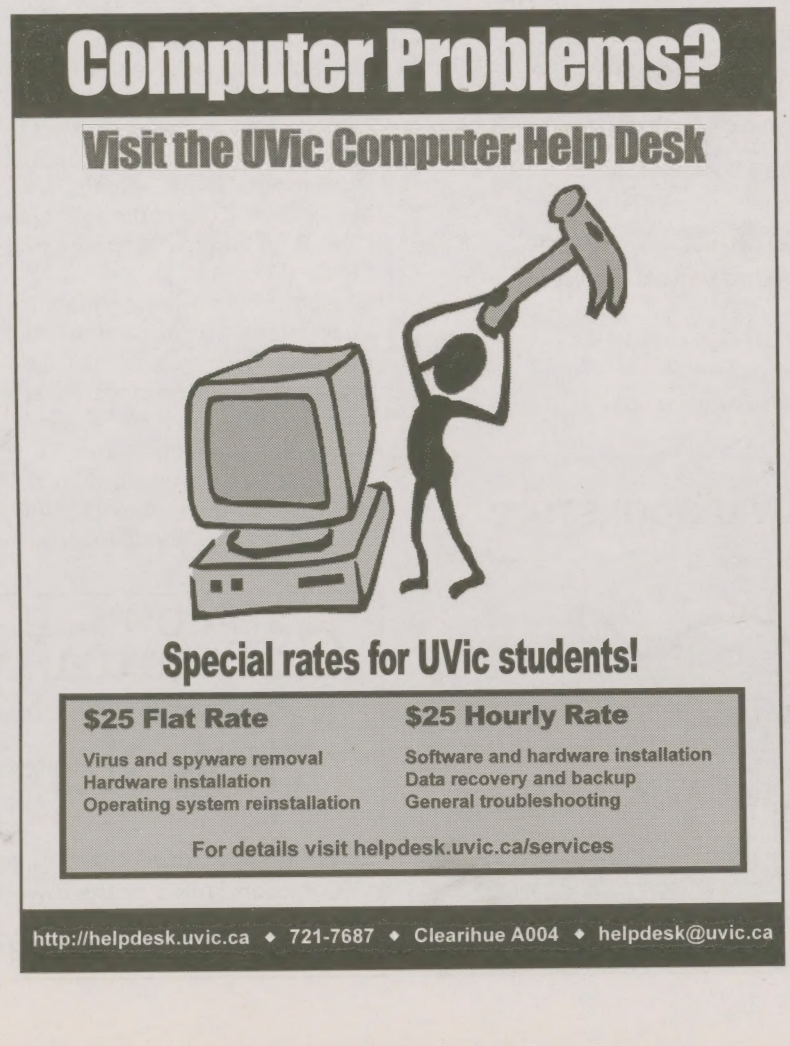
She's waiting on a drafting machine she ordered from eBay, to put over her green painting as a grid. Lorenz's painting isn't finished yet, and some of the other art and artists are still on their way from Seattle.

When the American artists arrive, Weiger bounds up the stairs to announce them. After a friendly reunion and a few introductions, strange-shaped packages of art are carried up the stairs and into "the vault." Before Xchanges was an artist co-op it was a dry cleaners, and the room now used for studio classes once stored expensive furs behind its sealed metal doors.

One of the packages contains a tree stump made of cardboard. The focus of Karen Rudd's art is the huge cedar stumps the archeological team used to reconstruct what the land was like when the Bedals lived there.

"We spent a week measuring the stumps and the distance between them, and then after a period of time you get this map, this grid map, with the stumps, and then you can imagine what the place used to look like," Rudd says.

"I think the idea of involving artists was brilliant," says Rudd. "The kind of information that the public gets from the archeologists isn't all that interesting. It's dry. People can come here and see this stuff, they won't quite know exactly what we're saying, but they'll get something from it."



Duo bikes seven-day race for intestinal disease

by Alex Gillett

Going to the bathroom is not a topic most people want to discuss. But UVic student and triathlete John O'Shaughnessy does, and he is doing everything in his power to open a dialogue on a subject many would rather avoid—intestinal disease.

On August 12, O'Shaughnessy and Robert Hill of Vancouver completed the 2006 TransRockies Challenge bike race from Fernie to Panorama Village, B.C., to raise awareness of intestinal disease.

Over 200 teams of two competed in this year's event, in which riders were challenged with over 600 kilometres and 29,000 vertical feet of rough B.C. Rocky Mountain terrain. O'Shaughnessy and Hill finished the seven-day race 68th out of 77 teams in the Open Men's division.

"The course was amazingly difficult," said O'Shaughnessy. "Sometimes I was wondering if it was someone's idea of a sick joke."

Despite the demanding course, extreme hot and cold weather conditions and some physical challenges, the pair says they feel they did their best.

PROVIDED PHOTO

O'Shaughnessy (left) and Hill, after biking through the Rockies.

"We weren't focused on winning," says O'Shaughnessy, who will be competing in the 2007 Ironman World Championships.

Their main goal for the race was to increase awareness of intestinal disease and remove the stigma associated with the disorders.

"We just want intestinal disease to have the same stature in society as cancer and other life changing/ending illnesses," O'Shaughnessy wrote in an e-mail. "Education and awareness is the key to achieving this, so if any events we pull off like this help to raise those levels in our communities, then we have reached our goals."

Hill has Crohn's disease and O'Shaughnessy is a survivor of bladder cancer and has irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). Both have had diversionary surgeries and each now lives with an ostomy pouch—a small plastic pocket attached to the abdomen that collects eliminated body waste.

"The big thing with intestinal disease is that people don't like to talk about it," said O'Shaughnessy. "We don't like to talk about going to the bathroom. And that's what it's all about. People get really, really sick and they feel really, really alone. A lot of people are living with it without actually going to see the doctor."

Crohn's, colitis or IBS affect more than one in five Canadians. Hill and O'Shaughnessy want to demonstrate that people with these diseases can still live active lives.

The pair was introduced by a medical company two years ago because of their similar medical backgrounds and shared interest in sport. When they were looking for a race to do together last year, they discovered the TransRockies Challenge and decided to go for it.

Hill is currently participating in the Seven Summits Campaign, in which he and his "No Guts Know Glory" team will climb the highest peaks on all seven continents, also to draw attention to intestinal disease. At this point he has completed five of those climbs, and is set to tackle Indonesia's Carstensz Pyramid in February.

Hill founded the Intestinal Disease Education and Awareness Society, to raise awareness of gastrointestinal diseases through public education programs and funding for medical research.

"Kids have the hardest time dealing with it," said Hill. This is why he and O'Shaughnessy plan to continue spreading their message of awareness through public school talks in the fall.

He added, "We want to plant the seed in their heads that if, heaven forbid, they do ever have to deal with an illness like this, they're not alone."

What to do when roadkill isn't killed

by Mike Berry

It was late at night and I was driving back home to rural Victoria with my partner through the backcountry roads. It's an area I praise for its lack of streetlights or light in general, and its solitude away from the noise of the "big" city. But there's an ugly side too. As we talked, a cottontail rabbit darted across the road.

There was no time to swerve, it happened that fast. I slowed down and checked my rear-view mirror, hoping everything was alright. But my girlfriend wanted to double check to see if the rabbit was OK or at least dead. To our horror, it was neither. I did hit it, but only half of it—the back half. It tried to run away, pulling itself with its front paws, but it wasn't going anywhere.

I didn't know how to break its neck and neither did my girlfriend, nor was there anything around that we could use to kill it. I don't think I could have managed that anyway. We couldn't just leave it in the middle of the road to be hit by the next car, but we didn't know what to do.

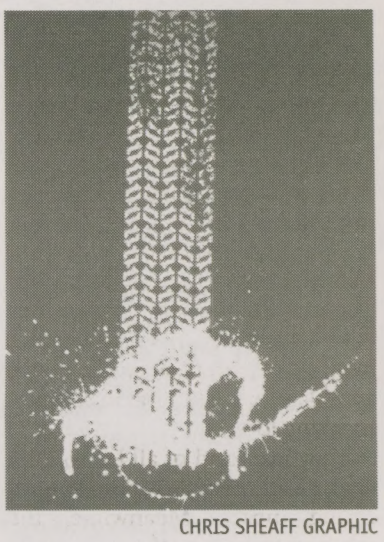
We decided to wrap the animal up in our dog's blanket, (who was sitting in the back of the car in her seatbelt going crazy because of the smell), and drive it to the nearest vet and put it to sleep. We arrived at the Central Saanich Animal Hospital where a couple of techs met us at the door to let us in. But because the vet had to be called in, putting the rabbit to sleep would cost around $200.

During the day it would have been free, but because it was after hours, it was going to cost us. It made sense, but we couldn't afford it. Fortunately the vet let us go with a bill of only around $100.

For future reference, the SPCA has someone on call 24 hours a day. They will pick up sick or injured animals, wild or domestic, and deal with them appropriately. They have a contract with a vet in Victoria that will treat the animal if necessary. If it's wildlife, then the SPCA will direct the animal to their Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre (Wild ARC).

As it turns out, when dealing with small animals, wild or domestic, wrapping them in a blanket and placing them in a quiet, dark place is best until help arrives.

Deer are another matter. If it is a fawn or small deer, then the SPCA will send the animal to Wild ARC. In general, though, according to Carl Robinson, special provincial constable with the SPCA, deer are euthanized on the spot because they are too dangerous. They should not be approached, he said. City police officers have been trained for this and can be contacted directly if necessary to deal with the situation.



CHRIS SHEAFF GRAPHIC

For domestic animals brought to the SPCA, an owner will be contacted right away if they can be found and any treatment necessary can begin. If the owner is unknown, the vet can do what it can to treat pain and suffering but can't do any major surgery unless the owner is available to sign a waiver. After four days, if no owner appears to claim the animal, it becomes the property of the SPCA, who can then order any surgery.

However, if the animal is in critical distress and requires immediate attention, the vet can make a recommendation to the provincial constable of the SPCA who can then make any decisions with regards to the animal in need.

If I had known this I could have saved $100, though I would have preferred not hitting the bunny in the first place.

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Canadian referee sets World Cup record

Héctor Vergara and his team oversaw five games in the this year's FIFA soccer tournament

by David Karp

PHOTO COURTESY OF HÉCTOR VERGARA

Héctor Vergara (second from left) trains for refereeing the games of the FIFA World Cup in several ways, including running laps.

Imagine having 65,000 people looking over your shoulder while you work. Now imagine millions more watching you on TV.

That's what Canadian assistant referee Héctor Vergara faced when he patrolled the sidelines during the FIFA World Cup of soccer's semifinal in July. His officiating team set a record for overseeing five games in one World Cup. The 39-year-old from Winnipeg was Canada's lone official at the tournament.

"Héctor's one in a few, mate," said Chris Vaughan Griffiths, who runs WorldFootballPages.com. He said it's too bad Vergara was the only Canadian at the World Cup. "Héctor getting there, even if we've just got one, it's worth celebrating I think in a small way. There is a minor triumph there."

As an assistant referee, Vergara is responsible for calling offsides and helping the referee call fouls and award throw-ins. But Vergara says there's more to it than that.

"I've been around for a long time now, so I use a lot of my experience to assist the referee, even before the game," Vergara said. "Making sure the referee is relaxed, making sure we're thinking positively, making sure we're training properly."

Vergara's 2006 World Cup concluded with the Germany versus Italy semifinal, where the hometown Germans conceded two goals late in extra time in a heartbreaking loss.

"They just kind of all laid on the field disappointed, some of them crying, upset. Meanwhile, the other team on the other side of the field is jumping for joy in celebration," said Vergara. "So you feel the contrast of those emotions. You're happy for yourself because you felt you've done a really great job and no mistakes were made. You feel like you're part of a sporting spectacle. And to be part of all that—no one can ever take that away from you."

Vergara played soccer as a kid, and started refereeing when he was 16 as a way to make some spending money.

"Some kids would work at McDonald's," Vergara said. "I decided that I would referee and earn a little bit of pocket money doing games. And I got hooked."

By the time he was 19, he was officiating professional matches in the now-defunct Canadian Soccer League. In 1993, Vergara was noticed by a referee instructor with FIFA, the worldwide governing body for soccer.

"I was put on the international list of assistant referees. I was the youngest one in Canada at that time," said Vergara.

To attend the 2006 World Cup, Vergara took more than a month's holiday from his job as chief administrative officer with the Manitoba Soccer Association.

"I do try to find a balance between my career as a soccer referee, as a soccer administrator, as a father, as a husband, as a family man, as a friend," said Vergara, who trains three to five times per week. "It's sometimes very difficult to do that, but I try to do that."

But soccer and family sometimes mix for the father of two children, ages one and three. "The older one, my girl, she likes to pick up a whistle and blow it all the time. And she knows daddy goes to referee," said Vergara.

"I think that anyone that goes to the World Cup in any capacity should be honoured," said Bob Lenarduzzi, who played for the first and only Canadian World Cup team in 1986. "And the crew that [Vergara] officiated with appeared to be one of the better ones as well in that they continued to get games throughout [the tournament]."

When asked about future tournaments, Vergara responded with a laugh, "Well, if you tell my wife, she says retirement." But Vergara wants to go to 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

"If I don't make it, I'll retire the day they tell me I can't go. And if I do make it, I'll retire the day I come home."

A 121-pound athlete brings home gold

by Amy Geddes

Voracious eating, drinking and peeing are a common spectacle behind the boathouse before pre-regatta weigh-ins. For Vikes rowing team member Mark Laidlaw, achieving the perfect body weight is part of a smart race strategy—a strategy that helped the Canadian men's eight crew win the gold at the world rowing under-23 championships in Hazewinkel, Belgium in July.

Laidlaw is a coxswain, more commonly known as a cox. Squished into the stern of the boat facing his crew, the cox steers with a rudder, calls the race strategy and helps motivate the crew. They have to be light or they slow down the speed, but are often the brunt of boathouse jokes because of their size. Although they are tiny, coxes are fierce leaders who command the attention of their crew, who know that no matter how annoying they find their coxes' incessant yelling (which during heightened moments can include spitting), it's the cox who keeps them from crashing into other boats and who steers them towards success or failure.

The weigh-in before a regatta is the critical moment of anticipation for these athletes.

Male coxes must weigh no less than 55 kilograms (about 121 pounds) before the race. If they are under weight they have to carry a weight in the boat, but if they weigh much more they slow down the boat.

According to Laidlaw who sits at 54 kilograms, the trick to making weight is to eat and drink water before the weigh-in.

"At the under 23 worlds in Belgium," he wrote in an e-mail from a regatta in Lithuania, "I was 53.4 about half an hour before weighing in. I ate a big lunch and then drank 1.5 litres of water. I made the weight and by the time we raced, I'd gone to the bathroom enough to lighten our load again."

During the training season he is about eight pounds heavier than he is now, but he easily drops down to the minimum before competition time. It's the risk of being underweight that tends to be his battle when regatta season rolls around.

In high school there was one regatta where he didn't make weight.

"They gave me a plastic bag and told me to fill it up with rocks, so I went outside and gathered enough rocks to get me up to the minimum weight," he said. "I had to take the bag with me in the boat while we raced."

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER LEE/GETTY IMAGES

Vikes oarsman Graham Rusk (back) rows with Liam Brennan.

At this year's championship in Belgium, Laidlaw executed their race plan well and the team led the final from start to finish.

"Our crew came to the regatta with one purpose: to win," he wrote. "It was always our plan to get out in front and stay there and that's what we did." The team had the fastest starts of the regatta and beat Germany by one second.

Vikes men's rowing coach Howard Campbell said finding a coxswain with Laidlaw's kind of confidence is essential.

"Sometimes we get someone the right size but they just don't have the confidence to force the guys to focus and pick up the boat when they need to get going," he said.

In keeping with Oxford and Cambridge regatta tradition, Laidlaw was tossed into the water on many occasions by his crew after a regatta win. At the 2004 Canadian university rowing championships in Montreal, Laidlaw was tossed into the chilly November waters in celebration of winning their race.

"Needless to say, the water was incredibly cold, so I had to get out of my wet clothes fast. The guys made a circle around me right there so I could change, but of course they moved as soon as I was naked."

This summer alone Laidlaw is proud to say he's been given the toss twice so far and after the championships in Lithuania, he hopes bump that tally up to three.

FINAL RESULTS

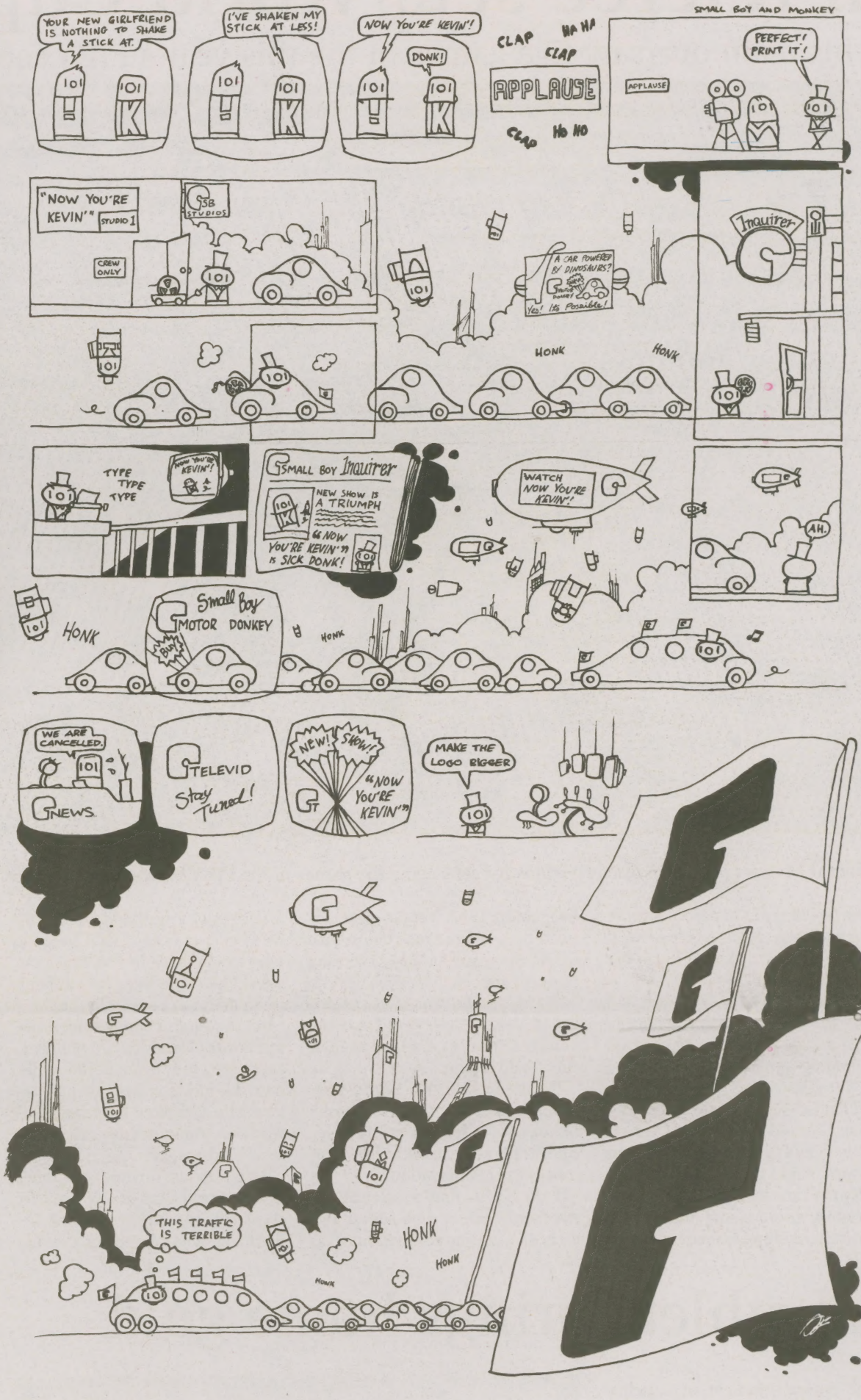
These are the results of the rowing finals in Belgium. They indicate where the Vikes had a strong presence in Canadian crews at the regatta:

Mark Laidlaw (coxswain) and Brendan Robinson: 1st place, Senior B Men's eight
Allison Kryszkiewicz: 6th place, Senior B Women's Four
Graham Rusk: 6th place, Senior B Men's Pairs
Matthew Swaile (coxswain): 7th place, Senior B Men's Coxed Four
Evan Wilson and Meghan Thomas: 7th place, Senior B Women's Eight
Susan Ross: 8th place, Senior B Lightweight Women's Double Scull

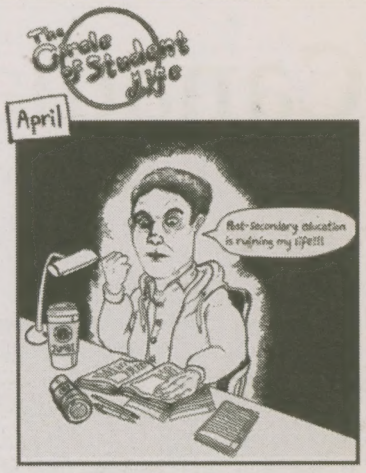
LADY AND STEVE

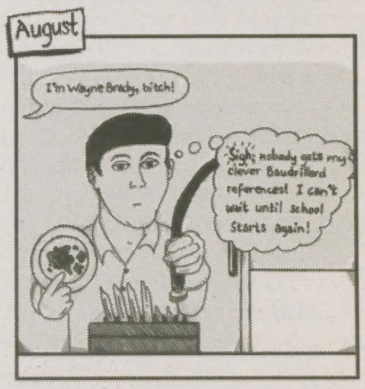
by Norman Ed Baskerville

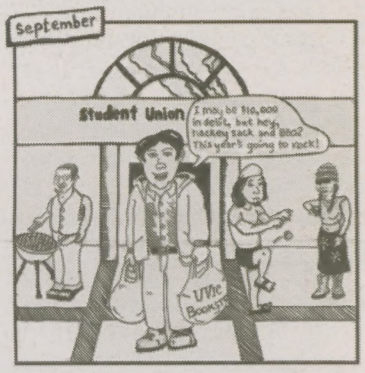
....who wears short shorts? I will baby.
I think I'll buy a condom.
They come in 12 packs now dearie.
You can buy the reusable ones at the "Spacemall.".



DRAW COMICS FOR THE MARTLET







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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Falun Dafa (meditation) at Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone, **Wednesdays,** 5-7 p.m. Also, **Saturdays and Sundays,** 10-noon, across from Beacon Hill petting zoo - all winter. Free, everyone welcome. 386-8805, faluninfo.net

The Victoria Folk Music Society offers live music every **Sunday night at 7:30 p.m., 1110 Hillside.** Info: www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms

Sanctuary Artists in Support of Muir Creek. Aug. 14 to Sept. 3 An art show at Victoria Arts Connection, #110-2750 Quadra St., near Hillside.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Interested in volunteering in radio? Behind the scenes or on-air? CFUV 101.9 FM is UVic's campus/community radio station broadcasting from the campus at 2290 watts of power. We are looking for those interested in producing or helping out in regards to public affairs, native student, women or queer issues, but everyone is welcome to apply. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kate Hollefreund at vol4cfuv@uvic.ca or drop by the station in the SUB, RMB006, Monday to Friday 10-5 p.m.

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Royal BC Museum Do you have a passion for learning and a talent for sharing your knowledge with others? If so, join the fabulous team of Docents at the Royal BC Museum. Help visitors discover the wonders of our province, through interactive school programs or guided adult tours. Applications accepted until August 30. Training begins September 5. For more information regarding these volunteer opportunities please contact Volunteer Services at 387-7902 or visit our website at www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

Want a fun and meaningful volunteer opportunity? THE COMMUNITY ACTION ON AIDS/VIDEA PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION is looking for help decorating flags and installing the project in August. For more information contact Chloe at craxlen@uvic.ca

MENTORS NEEDED
Be a mentor to an elementary student. Visit 1 hr/wk at a school and play games, sports, do arts and crafts, read and other fun activities. Call 475-1117 ext. 42 or e-mail volunteer@bbbsvictoria.com

The BC SPCA Wild ARC (Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre) is hosting its second annual Paws for a Cause. Walk or Run for Wildlife on Sept. 9 at Royal Roads University. The day will include games, prizes, music and food. There will be a 5K Trail Run, 5K Rover's Run (for you and your dog), and a 3K Fun Walk. This is the only race event for your whole family - 2- and 4-legged. For more information go to www.wildarc.com/walk or call (250) 478-WILD (478-9453).

Victoria's Food Not Bombs is searching for volunteers to help prepare, cook and clean up on Sundays. Serve your community and eat good food. 383-5144 extension 1940.

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I've wined you, dined you—now it's time to 99 you.

Some people say a lot of things. Some people should think before they speak. Some people deserve a punch to the beak.

Koko, my friend forever and a day. I'll hold you to your promise to visit me in Butterfields.
H.K.

Waaaaaalluuuuuugh.